

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF FLORIDA,

*In relation to school lands in that State.*

FEBRUARY 29, 1848.

Referred to the Committee on Public Lands, and ordered to be printed.

PREAMBLE AND RESOLUTIONS asking Congress to provide lands for the inhabitants of certain townships for the support of public schools.

Whereas by "An act supplemental to the act for the admission of Florida and Iowa into the Union, and for other purposes," approved 3d March, 1845, the Congress of the United States granted to this State section number sixteen in every township, or other lands equivalent thereto, for the use of the inhabitants of such township for the support of public schools: and whereas by act of 15th June, 1844, in anticipation of said grant, the Congress of the United States did provide that "wherever the sixteenth sections in the Territory of Florida, either in whole or in part, were then, or thereafter might be, included in private claims held by title confirmed or legally decided to be valid and sufficient, other lands equivalent thereto, within any land district in Florida most adjacent to said lands so taken up by private claims, which have been offered at public sale and remain unsold, may be selected in lieu thereof." And whereas it was the plain design of Congress, in this munificent donation, to provide a sixteenth section in every township, or other lands equivalent thereto, for the use of the inhabitants of such township for the support of public schools, and such design remains in part only unfulfilled in cases, first, where the sixteenth sections are utterly valueless; second, by reason of the treasury construction placed at Washington upon the said act of 15th June, 1844, whereby the sections of country covered by the private claims known as the Forbes's purchase and the Arredondo grant have been denied the benefit of said act; and the inhabitants of the townships included in those claims, though the same have been confirmed and legally decided to be valid and sufficient, have not been allowed lands equivalent thereto, and none have, as yet, been selected: and whereas, by reason of such construction, great time must elapse before the action of Congress can be had upon the remonstrance of this General Assembly at its first session, made against said treasury construction, and there will therefore remain unsold in the land districts in Florida but few lands equivalent to those thus lost to the township: Therefore,

*Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Florida in General Assembly convened, That the facts in the afore-*

going preamble set forth be made known to the Congress of the United States by our Senators and Representative; and that the Senate and House of Representatives be solicited and requested to pass a law providing suitable remedy, to make complete the munificent design of Congress in the points hereinbefore indicated; and to that end, also to authorize the location of such equivalent lands, either in this State or in any other State or Territory in this Union, where public lands remain unsold, for the use of the inhabitants of all those townships in this State so as aforesaid deprived of sixteenth sections of land for the support of public schools; and to locate the same in sections, quarter sections, or previously defined fractions, as allowed to be done in Alabama.

2. *Be it further resolved*, That copies of these resolutions be forthwith transmitted to our Senators and Representative in the Congress of the United States.

Approved January 8, 1848.

A true copy :

J. T. ARCHER, *Secretary of State.*